

Pella High School

Principal Newsletter

The mission of the Pella Community Schools is to maximize life's opportunities for every child.



Dear Parents/Guardians:

This is a busy time of year for students with a new season of sports well underway and several activities in place for the spring. Prom is coming up on April 6 at Central College, the music department will feature their band, orchestra and vocal students in the Showcase on April 26 & 27, and Tulip Time is shortly following in May.

The state of Iowa has introduced a new state assessment that will be given to every student in grades 3-11 during the fourth quarter of this year. The test is called the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student progress or ISASP. The Pella Community Schools will give these tests during the week of April 15. Plus, grades 5, 8, and 10 will take an additional science test the following week. Please promote the effort for the test is important for each test. We will have an alternative schedule on April 15, 16, and 17. More information is in this newsletter.

It's hard to believe we are already into the Fourth Quarter and the end of the school year is quickly approaching. Please continue to discuss the importance of staying focused for the remainder of the school year. We appreciate all of your support in motivating your child to complete the school year in a positive manner.

Thank you,
Eric Nelson
Principal

Derek Schulte
Assistant Principal

April 2019 Calendar

- 1** - Mid Term Grades Due
- 3** - Professional Development:
90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 6** - Junior/Senior Prom
- 10** - Professional Development
90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 15** - Iowa State Assessment of Student
Progress Week (ISASP) - Math
- 16** - ISASP - Reading
- 17** - ISASP - Language Arts & Writing
- 18** - ISASP - Make Up Day
Post 12-Week Grades
- 19** - No School
- 22** - ISASP Science Test
(Sophomores Only)
- 24** - Professional Development:
90-Minute Early Dismissal

* Go to www.pella.k12.ia.us and click on the calendar tab to see all events/activities. You may also access the calendar by going to www.littlehawkeyeconference.com

2019-20 Pella Schools Registration:

Deadline to register online has been extended

To complete registration, visit www.pellaschools.org/register and follow the steps under “Returning Student”. Or, simply find the “Online Registration” button on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The required 2019-20 Textbook Fee will be available under the “Payments” section too. Optional Fees such as Athletic Passes, Yearbook, Band Fee, Choir Fee, and parking permits will be available on July 1.

Senior Service Day

Senior Service Day is Wednesday, April 24. Seniors must sign up to participate, and will have the opportunity this year to choose their preferred service location in April. Students will meet at the school to start the day then spend the morning working on projects throughout the community, and are dismissed for the day when their site supervisor lets them go. Please watch for an email with more information. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Thorson at corey.thorson@pella.k12.ia.us or by calling 641-628-3870.

Senior Volunteer Hours

Any seniors collecting volunteer hours for our Distinguished Service Program should submit all the hours they have by Friday, April 26. If they are planning to accumulate hours during Tulip Time, they should still submit their other hours by the 26th, so we can try to complete the logging process. Tulip Time hours will still be counted; just turn them in the Monday after Tulip Time. The final deadline for seniors' hours will be Monday, May 6.

Senior Awards Night - Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Senior Awards Night is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the Pella High School Auditorium. Please join the celebration of the Class of 2019 as many seniors will be recognized for scholarships and awards they have earned. Students who applied for Dollars for Scholars will receive an email invite and should attend to receive their scholarship from the donor. Please dress appropriately; business casual is encouraged.

Junior Parents: Financial Aid Night

Pella High School is bringing ICAN (Iowa College Access Network) to present a **Financial Aid Night** on Monday, April 1st. This event will be at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Please put this on your calendar to attend if you have a junior student. ICAN is a fabulous resource which also provides a wealth of information for students, parents, and schools. The financial aid presentation will cover the details of completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as well as other grants and loans offered through this application. The reporting requirements have changed in this federal program recently, which allows for families to file earlier than senior year to determine eligibility for federal student aid.

Tulip Time Work Excuse

Please complete the form included in this newsletter and have your son or daughter turn in the form to the office.

Information on the New Iowa Statewide Assessment

The state of Iowa has introduced a new state assessment that will be given to every student in grades 3-11 during the fourth quarter of this year. The test is called the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress or ISASP. The Pella Community Schools will give these tests during the week of April 15. Grades 5, 8, and 10 will take an additional science test the following week. Here are some things you may want to know about the tests:

- The tests are not timed. Students can take as long as they need but the following guidelines have been given to us for planning.
 - Reading - allow 60 minutes for grades 3-11
 - Math - allow for 60 minutes for grades 3-11
 - Language Arts / Writing - allow 120 minutes for grades 3-11
 - Science - allow 60 minutes for grades 5, 8, and 10
- Grades 3-6 will be taking the tests in paper format while grades 7-11 will take them online.
- Questions are now varied in style including essay, short answer, and multiple choice.

Each student has been taking practice tests in each area. This introduced them to the format and will help them learn the tools that are built into the online system for grades 7-11. If you would like to view the practice tests for any grade level, they are available at [this link](#).

Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress Testing Schedule: April 15 - April 25

April 15: Mathematics

(Late Start Schedule - Seniors attend school at 9:30)

April 16: Reading

(Late Start Schedule - Seniors attend school at 9:30)

April 17: Language Arts and Writing 1 & 2

(Late Start Schedule - Seniors attend school at 10:50)

April 18: Regular Schedule with Make Ups in the Library

April 19: No School

April 22: Science

(Test in Chemistry during the period - Students not completed with the ISASP test can go to PLTW room next door to complete the test)

April 23: Regular Schedule with Make Ups in the Library

April 24 & 25: Make Ups in the Conference Room

Spring & Summer Science Opportunities for Pella High Students

Trailblazers - April 18th 6-8pm

For High School Girls interested in STEM - [See PDF](#).

BUILD.O.G.S. in HealthCare - July 25-27, 2019

Summer Learning at Drake for 10, 11, 12th graders next fall, interested in health careers. [See link](#) for more information.

Calendar: Semester Two

April

- 1:** Mid Term Grades Due
- 3:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 6:** Junior/Senior Prom
- 10:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 15:** Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) Week
ISASP - Math
- 16:** ISASP - Reading
- 17:** ISASP - Language Arts & Writing
- 18:** ISASP - Make Up Day
Post 12-Week Grades
- 19:** No School
- 22:** ISASP Science Test (Sophomores Only)
- 24:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal

May

- 2:** Tulip Time - 11:15 Dismissal
- 3:** Tulip Time - 11:15 Dismissal
- 8:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
Senior Awards Night
- 10:** Post 15-Week Grades
- 15:** Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 23:** Seniors Last Day
- 24:** Graduation

June

- 5, 6, & 7:** Semester Assessment, Laptop Return, & Student Check-Out
- 7:** Last Day of School - 12:30 Dismissal

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